Grimms' Fairy Tales

by Joann Mulvaney Messier

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

GRIMMS' FAIRY TALES

by Joann Mulvaney Messier

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT
School Publishers

ILLUSTRATION CREDIT: **4** Joe LeMonnier / Melissa Turk

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS: **Cover** (frame) © Image Farm / Antique Frames, (inset) © Bettmann/CORBIS; **1** © Archivo Iconografico, S.A. / Corbis; **3** © Gianni Dagli Orti / Corbis; **4** © Mary Evans Picture Library / Alamy; **8–9** © INTERFOTO Pressebildagentur / Alamy; **9** © Bettmann/Corbis; **11** © PhotoDisc / Metaphors; **12** © PhotoDisc / Just Documents; **13** © North Wind Picture Archives / Alamy; **14** © PhotoDisc / Script and Texture; **15** © Archivo Iconografico, S.A. / Corbis; **16** (top) © INTERFOTO Pressebildagentur / Alamy, (bottom) © INTERFOTO Pressebildagentur / Alamy; **17** © Bettmann / Corbis. **Tab** © Shutterstock

Copyright © by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying or recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner unless such copying is expressly permitted by federal copyright law. Requests for permission to make copies of any part of the work should be addressed to Houghton Mifflin Harcourt School Publishers, Attn: Permissions, 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, Florida 32887-6777.

Printed in China

ISBN-13: 978-0-547-02647-3
ISBN-10: 0-547-02647-1

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 0940 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11

If you have received these materials as examination copies free of charge, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt School Publishers retains title to the materials and they may not be resold. Resale of examination copies is strictly prohibited.

Possession of this publication in print format does not entitle users to convert this publication, or any portion of it, into electronic format.

Table of Contents

Introduction 3

Growing Up Grimm 4

Places to See in Germany 6

School and University 7

New Directions 8

Difficult Times 10

Collecting the Tales 11

Publishing the Tales 13

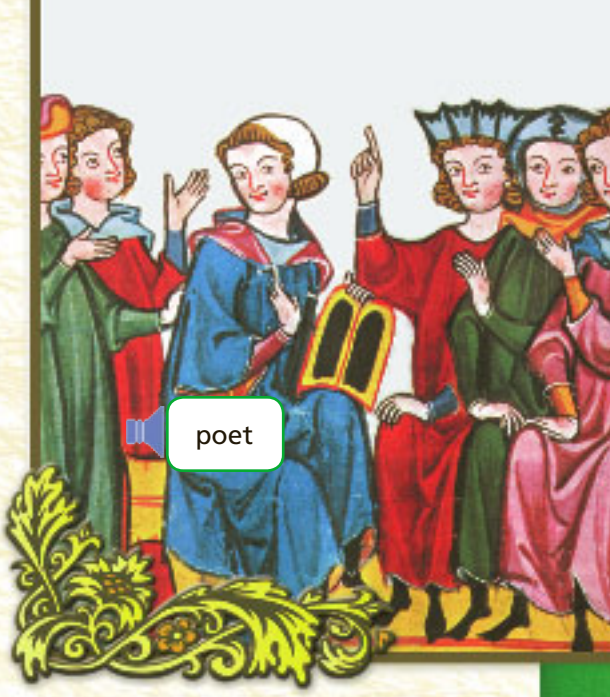
Key Events in the Brothers' Lives 14

Working and Living Together 15

A Lasting Legacy 18

Introduction

"Once upon a time . . ." When someone uses this common phrase, you know that you are going to hear a fairy tale. Today, we think of fairy tales as stories for children. The main characters face danger but "live happily ever after" in the end. Yet, the history of fairy tales is not always a happy one.



A poet in the Middle Ages tells a story about a hero.

Many years ago, common people told stories from memory. Women often told these folktales while they worked. Older people then told the tales to younger people.

In the 1500s and 1600s, Italian and French writers started to write down these folktales. Many of the tales were violent. The writers changed these tales so people from the upper classes would read them. They also added moral lessons.

Then, in the 1800s, two German brothers wrote fairy tales in a new way. The Grimm brothers changed the way people thought about fairy tales.

Where Are the Fairies?

A French woman invented the term *fairy tale* in 1697. Fairy tales have several things in common. They often have unreal settings, unusual characters, and magical events in them. But not all fairy tales have fairies in them!

Fairy tales often have magical creatures in them.

Growing Up Grimm

The story of the Grimm brothers begins in the small town of Hanau (HAN ow), in what is now Germany. Jacob was born in 1785. His brother Wilhelm was born a year later. Jacob and Wilhelm were the oldest of six children. Their father, Philipp Grimm, was a lawyer in Hanau. Their mother cared for the house and the children. Servants helped her do her work.

In 1791, the family moved to the town of Steinau (STYN ow). There, Philipp Grimm worked as a judge. Jacob and Wilhelm studied with private teachers. They learned reading, writing, math, and French. In their free time, the boys walked through the historic town. They explored the countryside and its ancient forests. The brothers wandered through old castles and towers.

Jacob and Wilhelm always had a close bond. They enjoyed snowball fights, hide-and-seek, and other childhood games. Both boys enjoyed collecting and drawing insects and plants. They also copied parts of books that they liked. Later, the brothers used their interests from childhood in their work as adults.

In January 1796, Philipp Grimm died suddenly. Jacob was 11 years old, and Wilhelm was 10. The family's life changed in a big way. Their mother had to care for six young children on her own.

The Grimm family lived comfortably before Philipp Grimm died. But now they faced money troubles. They moved to a smaller home. They no longer had servants. As the oldest child, Jacob worked hard to help his family.

This map shows several important cities in the Grimm brothers' lives. As you read, note what happened in Kassel and Marburg.

Places to See in Germany

Would you like to visit Germany? If so, you can visit towns where the Grimm brothers lived. Here are two towns to visit:

- **Hanau** — Fighting during World War II destroyed the Grimm home in Hanau. Today, a bronze statue of the Grimm brothers stands in front of the city hall. The statue honors their life and work.
- **Steinau** — The Grimm family home in Steinau still stands. The house is now a museum about the Grimm brothers.

School and University

The Grimm brothers' mother wanted to give her children a good education. A relative helped by giving money to send Jacob and Wilhelm to school. In 1798, the boys moved away from their family to attend school in Kassel. It was a very good school.

Jacob and Wilhelm studied hard in school. Their hard work paid off. Both boys became top students. During this time, the brothers became even closer.

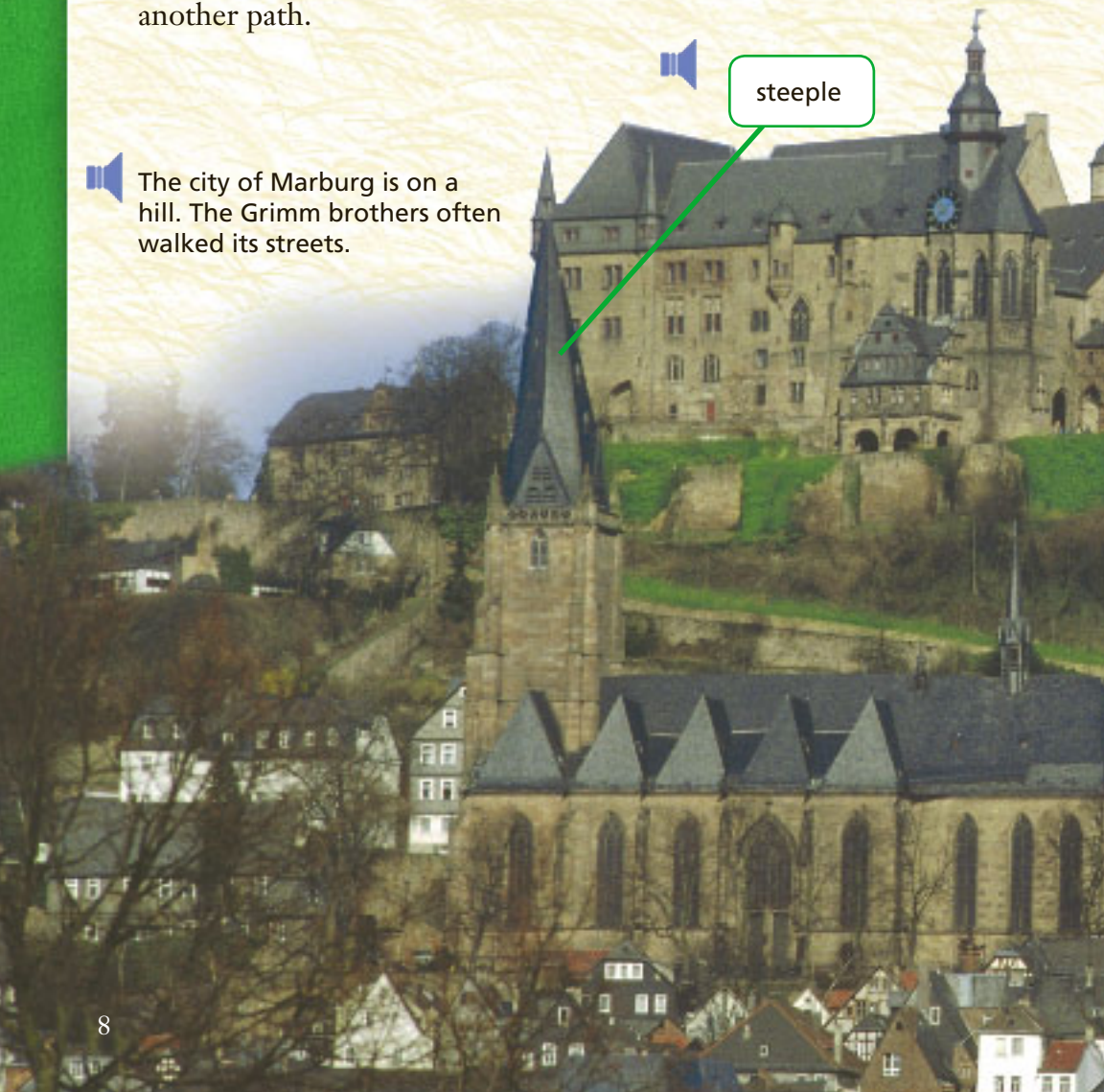
Then, in 1802, Jacob moved again to study at the University of Marburg. He decided to study law, like his father. It was hard for the brothers to be apart from each other. Jacob's law classes often bored him. He missed his brother.

Wilhelm stayed at Kassel to finish his studies. However, he became ill and was not able to study for months. During this time, the doctor only let Wilhelm draw. Still, Wilhelm finished his studies. In 1803, Wilhelm joined Jacob at the University of Marburg. He also decided to study law.

The brothers were not alike in every way. Jacob was short and strong. He had a tendency to be quiet and thoughtful. He liked to study. Wilhelm also liked to study. In contrast to Jacob, Wilhelm was taller and liked being with people.

New Directions

Jacob and Wilhelm became friends with a law professor. This professor sparked their interest in history, literature, and the German language. Another friend inspired the brothers with a love of folk poetry. These interests took the Grimm brothers away from careers in law. They decided to take another path.



The city of Marburg is on a hill. The Grimm brothers often walked its streets.

In 1805, the law professor went to Paris. He wanted to research a book about Roman law. He asked Jacob to come to Paris to help him. Once again, the Grimm brothers were apart. Jacob enjoyed Paris, but he missed his brother.

Wilhelm (left) and Jacob Grimm

Wilhelm also missed Jacob. The brothers stayed in touch through letters. In October 1805, Jacob returned to Marburg. Jacob and Wilhelm were happy to be together again. Then they traveled to Kassel. Their mother, brothers, sister, and aunt now lived there. For the first time in years, the Grimm family was together again.

Wilhelm continued his studies at Marburg while Jacob looked for work. Jacob felt responsible for the welfare of his family. He needed to work to support the family. In 1806, Jacob started a job in a government office. The pay was not good, and the work was dull. But there was another problem. Jacob had to wear an uncomfortable uniform and a wig!

Difficult Times

Later that fall, life in Kassel changed a great deal. The French, under Napoleon, took control of much of Prussia. Prussia was the name for part of Germany then. Political tension was high. People felt a lot of stress. Napoleon named Kassel the capital of a new kingdom. Napoleon's youngest brother became king.

The next few years were hard ones for the Grimm family. Jacob and Wilhelm struggled to find work. In May 1808, their mother died. The family had a hard time paying their bills.

Finally, Jacob found a job as director of the king's library. The job paid well. The Grimm family no longer worried about money. Wilhelm, however, still needed to find a job. Wilhelm was also not in good health.

Dorothea Viehmann

The Grimms learned many old tales from an innkeeper's daughter. Dorothea Viehmann told more than 40 tales to the brothers. Dorothea shared stories she heard at her father's inn.

Wilhelm stated that Dorothea had a true gift for recalling tales. She could repeat each story word for word every time she told it. One of her stories was "Aschenputtel." Today, we know this story as "Cinderella."

Collecting the Tales

Jacob worked to support the family. Wilhelm worked to regain his health. At the same time, the brothers continued their interest in old German folktales. They started to look for tales and write them down. The Grimm brothers genuinely wanted the old tales to restore pride to the German people. The German people's mood was predominantly gloomy under French rule.

From the aspect, or viewpoint, of the brothers, the hardest part of their efforts was in finding the old tales. People repeated the stories many times. But few people wrote them down.

The Grimm brothers found their stories from a variety of sources. Soldiers, shepherds, and other country people shared tales with them. Old school friends and neighbors in Kassel shared other tales. Sometimes Jacob and Wilhelm traveled to meet with a storyteller. They looked for people with the best stories to tell.

In collecting the tales, Jacob and Wilhelm used their old study habits. They paid close attention to detail. They tried to write down everything just as the storyteller said it. The brothers put only tales that they believed were truly German in their collection.

A Favor for a Friend

In 1806, a friend of the Grimm brothers was working on a book of German stories. He asked Jacob and Wilhelm for help. In a few years, the brothers collected 49 tales for their friend. But their friend never published his book. So, in 1812, the Grimm brothers published their collection themselves. A favor for a friend started the brothers on a path they followed for the rest of their lives.

Publishing the Tales

In 1812, Jacob and Wilhelm published Volume One of their work. In English, the title of the book was *Children's and Household Tales*. The stories were for both children and adults. There were 86 tales in their first book. The book included "The Frog King," "Rapunzel," "Cinderella," "Snow White," and "Hansel and Gretel." The book did not have any pictures.

Sales of the book were slow. People claimed the stories were too violent. Some considered the books too hard for children. Others wanted the book to have pictures.

A German edition of *Children's and Household Tales*

Jacob and Wilhelm collected more tales. At the same time, Napoleon started to lose power in Europe. In 1813, the French left Kassel. Jacob started a new job. Wilhelm continued to work on the second volume of *Children's and Household Tales*. The Grimms published this volume in 1815. This book had 70 tales.

Key Events in the Brothers' Lives

1785
Jacob Grimm is born in Hanau, Germany.

1786
Wilhelm Grimm is born in Hanau.

1791
The Grimm family moves to Steinau.

1796
Philipp Grimm, their father, dies.

1806
Jacob and Wilhelm start to collect folktales.

1808
Their mother dies.

1812
The brothers publish Volume One of *Children's and Household Tales*.

1815
The brothers publish Volume Two of *Children's and Household Tales*.

1825
Wilhelm marries.

1859
Wilhelm dies.

1863
Jacob dies.

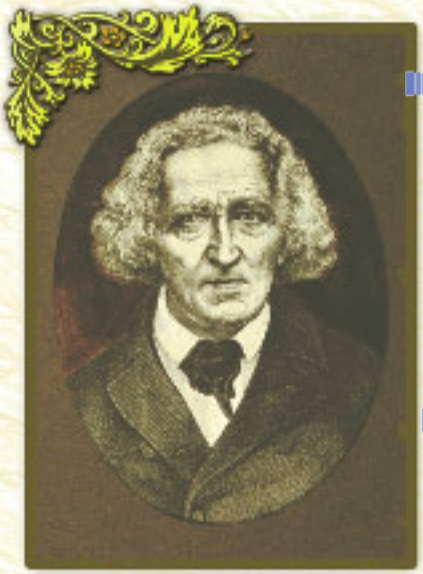
1960s
The brothers' *German Dictionary* is completed.

Working and Living Together

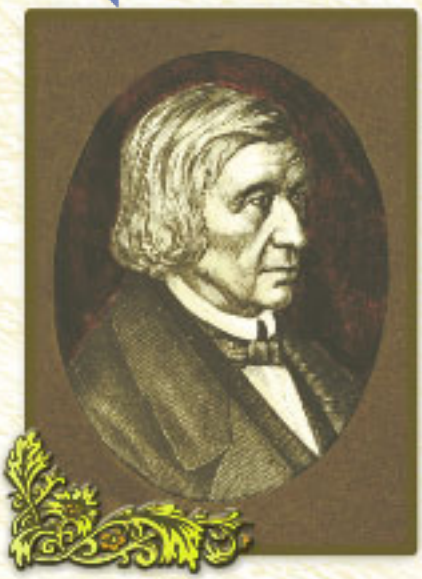
Wilhelm was responsible for later editions of *Children's and Household Tales*. He changed some of the stories based on people's comments. He also removed stories that seemed too violent. He wanted the stories to interest both children and parents. Wilhelm was an excellent editor. He included lessons about life in the stories. He used colorful language to make the stories come alive.

In 1825, the brothers published another collection of tales. They aptly named it the *Small Edition*. This book included only 50 stories. But it also had pictures. Children loved this version of the Grimms' tales. The book was very successful, so it was reprinted many times. The brothers published five more editions of *Children's and Household Tales* before they died.

This picture shows a scene from the Grimms' fairy tale "The Star Coins." In the story, a poor girl gives away all that she owns to help others. Later, she is rewarded. Stars fall from the sky and turn to coins, making her rich.



Jacob Grimm



Wilhelm Grimm

In many ways, Jacob and Wilhelm's lives were almost parallel. They shared the same interests. They usually lived, studied, and worked together. In later years, they both worked as librarians and professors.

In 1825, Wilhelm married and started a family. Still, the brothers remained very close. Jacob never married. He lived with Wilhelm and his family. Jacob and Wilhelm worked side by side in a shared study. This was the same way they worked when they were young. In their lifetimes, the two brothers published more than 35 books.

In their later years, Jacob and Wilhelm also started to write the *German Dictionary*. It was a huge project, and they could not finish it. Wilhelm died in 1859. He was 73 years old. Jacob died four years later. When Jacob died, he was still working on the dictionary. Other editors finally completed it in the 1960s.

Making Connections

The Grimm brothers recorded German folktales. People from around the world record folktales, too. Folktales help people learn about history and culture. For example:

- Folktales from the Caribbean and Latin America tell about the ancient Mayas and Aztecs. They also tell of outsiders who came to the area.
- Anansi is a spider that likes to play tricks. This character shows up in many West African folktales. Enslaved Africans took these tales to the Americas with them.

A Lasting Legacy

The Grimm brothers were not the first ones to record old folktales. However, they created the first major collection of German tales. They deserve credit for this work. Now, others could read these stories for the first time.

Their books also sparked an interest in folktales from other parts of the world. The brothers' way of collecting tales was an innovation — a new way of recording folktales — that others could use. The folktales that Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm collected can now be read in more than 160 languages. Their work still influences writers, artists, moviemakers, and, most of all, children of all ages.

In 1937, Walt Disney released the movie *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. Disney based this movie on one of the Grimm brothers' fairy tales. The movie changed the original tale. For example, Disney named the dwarfs to reflect their characters. The names included Sneezy, Happy, and Grumpy. Perhaps the brothers would not like these changes. But perhaps they would, since they also changed the tales they collected.

The Grimm brothers preserved old German folktales so these stories would not be lost. These tales later traveled far beyond Germany and influenced people around the world. Would the brothers be surprised at this result?

Responding

TARGET SKILL **Fact and Opinion** What are some facts and opinions in *Grimms' Fairy Tales*? Copy the chart below. Add three facts and three opinions from the book.

Facts	Opinions
Jacob was born in 1785.	Wilhelm was an excellent editor.
?	?
?	?
?	?

Write About It

Text to Text Think of a character from a fairy tale you know. Write a fictional paragraph about the character. Use your school as the setting for your paragraph.

TARGET VOCABULARY

aptly	parallel
aspect	predominantly
credit	tendency
genuinely	tension
innovation	welfare

TARGET SKILL **Fact and Opinion** Decide whether an idea can be proved or is a feeling or belief.

TARGET STRATEGY **Summarize** Briefly tell the important parts of the text in your own words.

GENRE **Biography** tells about events in a person's life, written by another person.

Level: X

DRA: 60

Genre:
Biography

Strategy:
Summarize

Skill:
Fact and Opinion

Word Count: 2,404

6.1.5

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN
Online Leveled Books

ISBN-13: 978-0-547-02647-3
ISBN-10: 0-547-02647-1
90000
9 780547 026473

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

1032628